

June 17, 2003

Trinity County Planning Commission
211 Main Street
PO Box 2819
Weaverville, California 96093

Re: Trinity River Bridges Project EA/DEIR

My name is Nancy Tennyson. I live in Lewiston; specifically, I am a property owner in the Salt Flat subdivision. I am a founding member of the Lewiston Trails Group and the Lewiston De-Litter Bugs Club (we pick up trash regularly along roads in the Lewiston area). I am also an active member of the Lewiston Garden Club and the Sunday-in-the-Park Gang, two organizations dedicated to the beautification of public property in the Lewiston Community.

I would like to thank the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Trinity County Planning Department for the responsible approach they have adopted with the Trinity River Bridges Project. Knowing that the higher river flows adopted by the Record of Decision would inundate several bridges in the Lewiston and Douglas City areas, they have taken the initiative to upgrade these bridges before the damage occurs – before they are damaged or washed away by an “act of man” and access to many homes is lost.

There are some who say that public funds should not be used to enhance private property. I believe that in the case of the Trinity River Bridges Project, the public funds are being used to facilitate the restoration of the Trinity River fisheries. Higher river flows are required to clean spawning gravels, build gravel/cobble bars, scour sand out of pools, control riparian vegetation, and perform many other ecological functions. There are several manmade structures, roads and bridges that stand in the way of these higher river flows, and in the way of the fisheries restoration.

The BOR, BLM, Trinity County Planning Department, and their consultants have gone to great lengths to analyze many different approaches to the bridges problem. The Environmental Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Report (EA/DEIR) is evidence of this. Regarding Salt Flat, replacing the bridge was not their only considered option. The team worked with the property owners on both sides of the river to evaluate temporary and permanent alternate routes, and several bridge replacement alternatives.

During the Scoping Process last year, Salt Flat property owners sent a letter to Ed Solbos, TRRP, and Tom Stokely, Trinity County Planning Department, stating our wishes that any new bridge proposed by the Restoration Program be located as near as possible to the location of the existing bridge – preferably within our existing easements and rights-of-way – and that it remain under our private ownership. The “Proposed Action” identified in the EA/DEIR supports our request.

a.

The Salt Flat Bridge Alternative 2 outlined in the EA/DEIR would make the private bridge at Salt Flat public. The owners of the property on which the bridge sits have spoken out against this alternative. Other residents of the Salt Flat subdivision and Goose Ranch Road have also spoken out against this alternative. I agree with the EA/DEIR which states on page 3.2-26 "...the increased presence of members of the public in a heretofore secluded private area would lead to significant effects in the form of increased litter, noise, and similar nuisance-like impacts." The mitigation efforts – as detailed in measure SF-2b to: "...develop a facility to accommodate increased public access. At a minimum, a public restroom, parking, and trash collection facility will be installed." – cannot reduce this to less than a "Significant Unavoidable" impact under CEQA.

Lewiston is not lacking public river access points. Based on the *Trinity River Fishing Access & Accommodations* map (published by StreamTime, © 1997) and my own experience, there are at least 13 public access points between Grass Valley Creek and the Lewiston Dam. I have personally used 11 of these public access points. (This count does not include several privately-owned recreational sites along the river in Lewiston.) The condition of many of these Trinity River public access points act as proof of the significant, unavoidable impact public access can cause. Debris ranging from fishing hooks, line & sinkers to picnic trash and beverage containers to human waste are not uncommon in the more popular locations.

While there are still many important details to be worked out between the Trinity River Restoration Program and the Salt Flat area property owners, at this time I am in full support of the "Proposed Action" for the Salt Flat location. I ask that the Planning Commission recommend the Board of Supervisors certify this EA/EIR Proposed Action.

Attached with this letter are some questions and comments pertaining to specific details of the EA/DEIR which I am also forwarding on to the TRRP.

Thank you for your time.



Nancy Tennyson
PO Box 821
Lewiston, CA 96052
ntennyson@snowcrest.net
778-0632

RESPONSE TO COMMENT: 21

Nancy Tennyson

21-a: Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted, and will be transmitted to the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and federal officials for their consideration in connection with the merits of the proposed project. No further response is required.